

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Feb. 28, 2011**  
**11-067**

### ***Response winding down at site of U.S. 101 fuel spill***

**OLYMPIA** – Within a few more days, most of the active cleanup will be complete along U.S. 101 in Jefferson County from the Feb. 23, 2011, truck accident that spilled several thousand gallons of diesel 25 miles south of Forks.

Environmental contractors estimate most of the fuel has been recovered.

The longer term response will focus on water quality monitoring of Chalaat Creek. Its upper reach was impacted by the fuel spill. The creek supplies water to the Hoh Tribe fish hatchery, 2.5 miles downstream from the spill site.

Pettit Oil and its contractors are working closely with the Hoh Tribe Natural Resources Department to ensure their concerns are being fully addressed during the response process. The Washington Department of Ecology and Jefferson County Public Health will oversee the full cleanup.

A carbon filtration system is installed on the hatchery intake and is on standby in case water samples indicate it is needed. For now, samples taken twice daily at two locations on the creek have not detected any fuel.

On the morning of Feb. 23, a northbound Pettit Oil fuel truck-trailer overturned near milepost 167 on U.S. 101. Diesel fuel spilled from the trailer into a ditch, adjacent road shoulders, and some flowed underneath the highway into a creek and wetland.

Contaminated soils on both sides of U.S. 101 at the accident scene have been removed and backfilled.

Traffic had been limited to single-lane with the aid of a flagger and pilot car. The road is open in both directions in the evening hours, and a pilot car is still being used to guide traffic through while crews are working on the shoulders.

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**For more information:**

<http://ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/PettitOilSpill/PettitOilTruckSpill.html>

**Ecology's Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>**